



November 17, 2003

Re: STB Docket No. AB-6 (Sub-No. 396X); BNSF Abandonment - Ottawa, Kansas

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Office of Proceedings

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Public Record

Vernon Williams
Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
1925 K. Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

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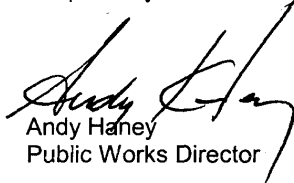
Dear Mr. Williams:

The STB decided on December 26, 2002, in the above referenced case, to grant interim trail use that enabled the City of Ottawa, Kansas to negotiate with BNSF for acquisition of the line. There has since been an extension granted pursuant to the joint request of the City of Ottawa and BNSF. This extension until December 21, 2003 was granted by the STB in a decision dated June 16, 2003.

Negotiations are ongoing, but will not be completed by the established deadline. There will be insufficient time to get details before the governing body at their scheduled meetings before the December 21st deadline. The City of Ottawa received the first formal proposal relative to this negotiation from BNSF last week (11/11/03). Among other issues, the legal description of the subject property is yet to be finalized by BNSF.

The City of Ottawa requests that an additional 180 days (thru June 27, 2004) be granted as an extension to complete such negotiations with the BNSF. Based on telephone conversations with Mr. Rich Batie, BNSF concurs with this request.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the City of Ottawa, Kansas,


Andy Hahey
Public Works Director

cc: Weldon Padgett, City Manager
Bob Bezek, City Attorney
Scott Bird, City Clerk
Wynndee Lee, Planning Director
Richard Batie, BNSF